Delay in issuing student visas

1061. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have received many complaints about the inordinate delays in issuing student and research visas to the foreign students;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of requests of visas received at various Indian embassies during the last two years and the number of foreign students who got visa permissions so far; and

(c) the details of corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for issuing more student visas to the foreigners by implementing it in a transparent and simplified method?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There have been a few instances of delay in issuing student and research visas by Indian Missions/Posts aborad.

(b) the delay in grant of student visas has mainly been due to foreign students not fulfilling the prescribed conditions concerning grant of student and research visa. The information on number of requests for student and research visas received at various Indian Missions during the last two years and the number of student and research visas granted is being collected from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and will be laid on the table of the House as early as possible.

(c) Government have recently liberalized grant of student visas. The liberalized provisions are given below:

i. Visa to be granted for admission in recognized/reputed educational institutions in India.

ii. Visa co-terminus with the duration of the course or 5 years whichever is less.

iii. No restriction on number of courses that can be pursued.

iv. No restriction with respect to change of the course or institute or both.

v. Student visa for industrial training/summer project/internship.

vi. Waiver of the requirement of No Objection Certificate from Ministry of Human Resource Development.

vii. Extendibility on the ground of clearing supplementaries.

Victimization of Indians in Nepal

1062. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Nepal's Maoists victimising Indians, like raiding of Dabur-Nepal Greenhouse leading to its closure, threatening to close Dabur-Nepal factory at Birgunj, serving a demand not to Indian Embassy's pension office at Pokhara etc.;

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken by Government in this regard, especially in view of India's playing a prominent role in extending assistance for Nepal's multi-faceted development; and

(c) whether the matter has been taken with Nepal's Prime Minister and also at diplomatic level and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There have been incidents of extortion and intimidation against businessmen and industrial units in Nepal by the CPN (Maoists) and their affiliated trade unions. These include Indian businesses and joint ventures.

(b) and (c) Cases involving the safety and security of Indians in Nepal, including Indian businesses and joint ventures have been taken up by the government of India with the Government of Nepal, including at the highest levels. The Government of Nepal has been requested to investigate these cases and provide adequate security and safety to all Indians, whose welfare and security is of prime concern to the Government of India.

Assistance for Buddhist and Hindu refugees in Nepal

1063. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: